

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Claims 1, 2, 4-23, 28 and 30 are all the claims pending in the present Application.

By this Amendment, Applicants editorially amend claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 19, 28 and 30. By this Amendment, Applicants also cancel claims 3, 24, 29, 31 and 32 without prejudice.

II. Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courteous telephonic Interview on October 17, 2007. A facsimile copy of an Examiner's Interview Summary Record (PTO-413) was provided to the Applicants on October 18, 2007. The PTO-413 requires Applicants to file a Statement of Substance of the Interview. The Statement of Substance of the Interview is as follows:

On October 17, 2007, Applicants' representatives contacted the Examiner to discuss the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. During the Interview, Applicants' representatives explained that the phrase "composite ratio" should be interpreted to mean "composition ratio," which is clearly described in the specification. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the Advisory Action of September 11, 2007 and issue a new Office Communication after a follow up search. The present Office Action (mailed October 23, 2007) was issued together with the Examiner's Interview Summary.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 17, 18, 22, 24 and 29-32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Amano (PN 6801414).

The Examiner has also objected to claims 3, 4, 8-16, 19-21, 23 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claim 1, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. With regard to claim 3, this claim has been canceled.

With regard to claims 2, 4-7, 17, 18, 22, and 30, these claims depend from independent claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2, 4-7, 17, 18, 22, and 30 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

With respect to claim 8, this claim has been rewritten in independent form as the Examiner suggested. With respect to claims 9, 13, 14, 15 and 16, these claims depend from independent claim 8. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 10, this claim has been rewritten in independent form as the Examiner suggested. With respect to claims 11 and 12, these claims depend from independent claim 10. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 19, this claim has been rewritten in independent form as the Examiner suggested. With respect to claims 20, 21 and 23, these claims depend from independent claim 19. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 28, this claim has been rewritten in independent form as the Examiner suggested. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is now in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). Applicants herewith petition the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

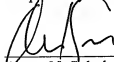
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Respectfully submitted,



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